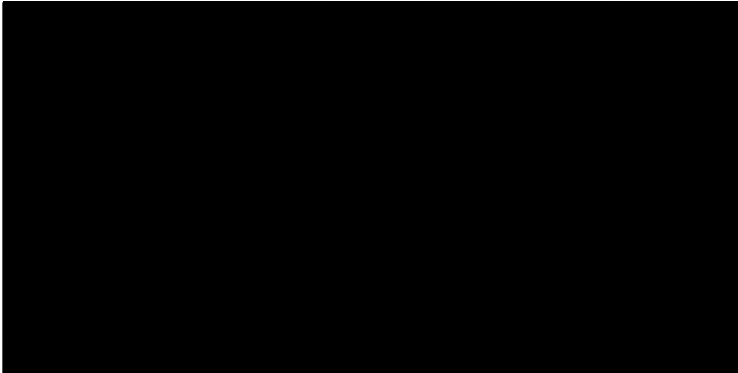


15 February 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Incidents with sterilised instruments

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 19 January 2021 requesting the following information:

May I please make a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

I would like a detailed breakdown of any and all incidents relating to equipment not being properly sterilised by the District Health Board from March 2020.

Please clarify if the lack of sterilisation was picked up before or after patient exposure.

Auckland DHB CSSD processed 1.6 million instruments in 32,871 trays in the period March 2020 to January 2021. There were 32 recorded instances of contamination of instruments in sets during that time (0.0079%). 87% of those were complex orthopaedic sets and the majority of those were loan sets, owned by external suppliers and which are processed outside Auckland DHB.

In 31 of these instances, the instruments had been successfully sterilised but were found to have contamination (most often cement residue) on a single instrument or covering, once the sets were opened for use. The OR teams managed the incidents and no unsterile instruments were used on patients.

There was one instance where a diagnostic device was not **documented** as having been processed fully and could potentially have been contaminated when it was used on a subsequent patient. This event has been fully disclosed, investigated by the quality and risk team, logged in the Patient Safety

Management System (Datix) and process changes completed to mitigate the risk of recurrence. There was no patient harm associated with this event.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)